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STATE DEPT FOR WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/16/2016

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [SOCI](#) [CU](#)

SUBJECT: CUBAN INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST GARCIA DETAINED,
THREATENED

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Buddy Williams for Reason 1.4(d).

(C) Cuban dissident and frequent USINT visitor Luis Garcia Vega, aka Lucas Garve, was detained for nearly four hours November 15 after departing a USINT internet center. Garcia, an active independent journalist who writes for CubaNet, among other organizations, told us November 16 that he was handcuffed near USINT by two National Revolutionary Police officers at 4:15 pm, driven to a nearby police station, warned to stop writing about Cuban activists, and released around 8 pm. (Another activist, Martha Beatriz Roque of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society, told us she saw two patrolmen take Garcia into custody.) Garcia told us he was not asked to sign an incriminating document but had all of his belongings, including his wallet, searched. Garcia said a State Security official told him that if he continues to write articles critical of the Cuban Government, he could be "held indefinitely, without charge." Dissidents have reported a sharp increase in brief detentions over the past six weeks.
WILLIAMS